10. It is particularly requested that arrangements may be made to issue these publications, after obtaining the approval of Government, before 31st July 1916. Any sanctions needed to facilitate the work and to ensure their timely issue should be applied for without delay.

V. R. THYAGARAJA IYER,
Secy. to Govt., Rev. Dept.

To—The Revenue Commissioner in Mysore.
Other Heads of Departments.
The Secretaries to Government.
The Deputy Commissioners of Districts.

CIRCULAR.

In Government Order No. R. 4497-505—L. R. 15-15-63, dated 4th November 1915, the Deputy Commissioners were requested to arrange, as far as possible, to bring every village and hamlet under the operation of the Village Improvement Scheme. The scheme has been in force now for about two years and it is found that much diversity of practice exists in giving effect to its provisions in the different districts of the State. Experience shows that even after making allowance for every variety of local conditions, some of the more important works and practices associated with the Village Improvement Scheme might be standardised with advantage. It is necessary to insist on the performance of certain primary duties by every existing Village Committee. The object of this circular is to specify these primary or obligatory duties of the Village Committees as distinguished from their optional functions. In this way, the essential primary duties which no village should do without, will be separated from the higher activities and duties which may be undertaken as the villages advance in education and enlightenment.

It may be stated that, in laying down these obligatory duties, no new works or duties not already included in previous Government orders or circulars have been added.

I. Primary or Obligatory Duties.

2. The following duties should be observed in every village or group of villages for which there is a Committee.

(1) *Weekly Half-day Labour.*

Once a week, usually every Monday morning, the villagers should meet and carry out urgent sanitary and other improvement works in the village by giving their labour for 4 or 5 hours (commencing from about 7 o'clock in the morning). Every house should give one labourer, or in lieu of personal labour, a contribution of half to one anna according to the circumstances of the family. Such a participation in the work of common benefit to the village should be regarded as a token of respectability and public spirit and the people should be taught to take a pride in contributing their share. A list of families who are for any reasons unable to pay their contribution and may be exempted should be maintained.

(2) *Weekly Meeting for Spreading Useful Information.*

A week day should be fixed for this work by the Deputy Commissioner for the taluk as a whole. The meeting should begin at about 5 o'clock in the evening and last for two or three hours. It should be utilised for reading newspapers, sanitation and village prosperity rules and for lectures and discussions and propaganda work. Some little time should be spent at every meeting in going over the principal wants of the village and examining the progress made in supplying the wants and removing defects and deficiencies.

(3) *Collecting a Village Fund.*

The funds raised in the village should, on an average, amount to not less than a rupee per annum per family residing in the village, in addition to the weekly labour and special contributions for supplementing Government grants or other special works. The money should be collected and spent by the Committees themselves.

(4) *Promoting Education and giving Instruction in some Industry or Industries Subsidiary to Agriculture.*

Not less than 10 children for every 100 persons of the population should be at school. The education of adults should be encouraged. The greater the number under instruction, the better. In advanced villages the number including adults should easily go up to 15 per 100.

(5) *Important Wants of the Village and Measures to supply the Same.*

A list of important wants, up to a dozen, should be maintained, arranged in order of importance, together with such information as may be available, as to funds agency and time of completion. As already stated, this subject should receive attention at the weekly meetings held for the purpose of spreading useful information.

(6) *Maintenance of Books, Registers and Village Statistics.*

The following documents should be maintained neat and correct:—

(i) Register of monthly record of progress.

(ii) Form of village statistics.

The Committee may also collect and maintain other useful information about the economic condition and wants of the village.

WEEKLY HALF-DAY LABOUR; WORK TO BE DONE.

3. The weekly half-day labour which should be one of the important functions of the Committees will be devoted, among other objects, to the following:—

(*a*) Maintenance of roads within the village with a hard surface, gravelled, if possible, with a rise in the middle and sloping at the sides. Provision should be made for drains to carry away rain water rapidly.

(*b*) All solid refuse, waste matter, dead leaves, etc., should be collected and deposited in dust bins or in special receptacles provided for the purpose instead of allowing them to lie scattered in the neighbourhood of dwelling houses and huts.

(*c*) All sullage water and sewage which at present escape into the earthen drains, and in some cases, into the middle of the street, should be collected in masonry cisterns or earthen pots or wooden tubs and arrangements made for their removal daily, twice a week, or once a week as the case may be, to the fields of the cultivators or, in any case, to a point outside the village. A number of house owners may combine and arrange for removal of sullage water by employing special labourers or carts. This is one of the matters in which a new departure is needed in the existing habits of the people.

(*d*) Pits and hollows within or immediately round the village should be gradually filled up and a surface slope provided so that rain water may escape freely into the natural water courses or tanks.

Whenever pits cannot be filled on account of the cost, they should be drained as far as possible.

(*e*) All scrub jungle and undergrowth both within and immediately round the village should be removed.

(*f*) A strip of ground, 100 to 300 feet wide, all round the village, should be kept free from evil smells, clean and attractive.

(*g*) All dilapidated houses and wells should be removed or closed, the owner being held responsible for the same.

(*h*) Wells and ponds which supply drinking water and their surroundings should be cleaned periodically.

(*i*) Existing step wells along roadside villages should be cleaned at least once a year and the water-supply maintained in a potable condition.

(*j*) Village chavadies, temples, places of recreation, village topes, etc., should be frequently repaired and the buildings lime-washed and maintained in a tidy condition.

(*k*) Every house in the village should be lime-washed once a year.

II. Higher Duties and Activities.

4. In addition to the obligatory items of work described above, there are three other classes of activities which may be profitably pursued in every village according to the capacity and opportunities of the people. They are:—

(i) Measures for improving and beautifying the village.

(ii) Measures for increasing the occupations, improving the earning power of the people and the economic condition of the village generally.

(iii) Measures for spreading useful information and enlightenment in the village.

The following works may be undertaken under class (i):—

(*a*) New roads within the village and large new roads outside the village;

(*b*) Culverts, bridges or crossings for nalas and channels;

(*c*) Improvement of water-supply;

(*d*) Improvement of drainage;

(*e*) Construction of village chavadies, topes, etc.;

(*f*) Creating facilities for supply of fodder, fuel and other requirements; and

(*g*) Any other special works required for the improvement of the village.

Under class (ii) attention should be devoted to the items noted below:—

(*a*) Increasing the number of boys' and girls' schools;

(*b*) Providing conveniences for travellers;

(*c*) Maintaining estimates of production both from farm produce and from occupations;

(*d*) Increasing production under agriculture by intensive cultivation and improved methods;

(*e*) Improving banking facilities by means of Co-operative Societies and Village Savings Banks;

(*f*) Improving rural industries; and

(*g*) Starting special industries and promoting trade.

Under class (iii) may be included the following:—

(*a*) Organising lectures, shows, museums, fairs, etc.;

(*b*) Demonstrating improved methods of production;

(*c*) Sending young men to large centres of business for training; and

(*d*) Maintaining boys from the village in taluk schools and elsewhere for secondary, higher and technical education.

5. The Deputy Commissioners should be requested to instruct the Amildars to enlist the willing sympathy and active co-operation of the villagers in these matters and to satisfy themselves that the primary duties, enumerated in paragraph 2 above, are attended to by every Village Committee within their jurisdiction. The District Officers should, during their inspections, devote some time to enquire whether the Village Committees are faithfully attending to the obligatory duties prescribed and to encourage them to take up also as many optional duties as they can.

6. The test of the success of the working of the Village Improvement Scheme, in any area, will be the number of Village Committees which have learnt to perform these obligatory functions, punctiliously, of their own free will. The extent to which the higher duties referred to in paragraph 4 receive attention in any village will be an index of its prosperity and enlightenment.

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